

The Signature

Sigonella, Sicily

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July 4, 2003

VP-8 Fighting Tigers display versatility, play vital role during Sigonella deployment

JOSN Pat Migliaccio
Staff Writer

Aircrew personnel affiliated with Patrol Squadron Eight (VP-8) arrived in Sigonella the first week of February, ready as usual to give their all, to any mission tasked to them. In doing so, the squadron showcased the versatility of the P-3 Orion aircraft and added another chapter to the illustrious history of the VP-8 Flying Tigers, playing a critical role during operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We were breathing real hard a few weeks ago," said former squadron commanding officer, Cmdr. Jeff McKenzie, referring to the over 200 missions and 2500 plus flight hours VP-8 crews logged over wartime Iraq. "But we made a difference. Ground level troops slept a lot easier and our presence on station actually saved lives. That was direct feedback from our ground customers. We're very proud of this."

Normally based out of Naval Air Station Brunswick, Maine, VP-8's origin began during World War II, when there was a critical need to combat German submarines. Since that time, VP-8's primary mission continues to be anti-submarine warfare (ASW). However, because of the versatility of the P-3 Orion aircraft, VP-8's mission has expanded considerably and now includes battlefield video surveillance.

"During the Iraqi war, our primary mission was ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) said McKenzie. "The architecture of the P-3 is state of the art. It carries a VP-8, page 13

Sig class dicusses Navy babies

AN Michelle Hartgraves
Staff Writer

Pregnancy means worrying about two rather than one. Changes in your body and lifestyle can alter your pattern of thought, eating, sleeping and the way you do things. Expectant mothers need to be very careful in everyday activities because they are now living for two.

Changes in lifestyle and concern about a baby can cause stress. Not knowing about simple changes that need to take place can harm the baby. Not getting essential nutrients or overindulging on sugar can cause babies to be underweight or premature.

Navy parents or spouses can take comfort in the classes provided for expectant mothers and their spouses. Through the program called Special Additions, expectant active duty mothers learn a wealth of information regarding what to eat and what to expect during pregnancy and programs offered for newborn babies.

Eating habits were emphasized in the class. Mothers learned that pregnant women not only need to eat well for themselves, but for the baby's health as well. Because babies stay inside the mothers womb for nine months, they are completely dependent on their mother for proper nutrition. Nutrients pass from the mother to the baby's placenta, their only means of nutrition. Whatever the mother eats so, does the baby.

Eating was only one of the topics discussed. During the class an occupational health consultant talked about industrial hygiene, reproductive hazards at home or work, preventive reproduction education, and risk management.

Special administrative guidelines apply to pregnant active duty members. Prospective parents are informed of their responsibilities to their baby and the Navy.

Special additions, page 13

Reservist soon to say farewell

JO2 David Hamilton
Staff Writer

Reservist AC2 Walter Cresenzi is no stranger to anyone or anything when it pertains to the airfield. Since being mobilized in November of 2001 out of Selfridge, Michigan, Cresenzi has put in over 3,100 hours as air traffic control's operation duty officer. Cresenzi likes to spend as little time as possible behind his desk. Instead, he likes to be where the action is occurring. "I spend over 70 percent of my time out on the airfield," said Cresenzi.

One of the many roles Cresenzi plays at the air traffic control tower is instructor of the airfield driving indoctrination course. If you have a ramp badge, then you most likely have had the pleasure of meeting him and taking his abbreviated, but very informative course.

Cresenzi's additional responsibilities include overseeing all activity on the airfield, including flight line access, construction, utilization of ramp spaces, and airfield maintenance. He begins and ends each day with a 'sweep' of the runways, searching for any Foreign Object Damage (FOD). This can stem from objects left on the flightline, such as from a piece of paper, stones or birds.

Cresenzi maintains and operates the four cannons on the airfield. "Bird traffic can be moderate to heavy out on the flight lines, especially right after winter," said Cresenzi. "I go out, set a timer on the cannons, which in turn sets off a loud noise scaring the birds so that they will not get sucked up into the intakes of the planes."

Cresenzi, who speaks fluent Italian, is no stranger to many local nationals on base. He participates in the monthly Italian Aviation safety meeting and generally sought after as authority on airfield subjects.

Lt.Cmdr. Arthur Coogan, assistant operations officer in charge, remembers one instance Cresenzi's knowledge of Italian came in to play. "Repair work was being done on the flight line due to the heavy traffic we had here in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom," said Coogan. "The local nationals wanted to close the airfield with no notice. Cresenzi was able to sit down and consult with the Italian Officials and make it happen to where we could close the airfield at our convenience," he said.

Being prepared because you never know what to expect is part of the Reservist, page 8



AC2 Walter Cresenzi, air traffic control's operation duty officer, sets one of four cannon timers used to frighten birds away on the NASSIG flightline. Birds can cause serious damage by being sucked up in to the intake of the plane.

Photo by JO2 David Hamilton

Galley-Club to make chow time even better



JOSN Steve Weaver
Staff Writer

A few of the NAS I Recapitalization projects happening on NAS I are nearing completion here on Naval Air Station Sigonella.

One of these is the new Galley-Club, which will re-

place the current galley and Live Wire club by late August or early September.

The two-in-one building will host significant 'pluses' that the older facilities lacked. The old galley building was built in 1959, and the Live Wire building was built and 1961. They will both be demolished af-

ter the new building begins operation, which is true of all buildings being rebuilt. "All of our recap, everything that's being built new, has a building that's demolished either before or after," said Chris Morell, NAS I Recapitalization manager.

The buildings that were on the site where the new Galley-Club include the old loan locker and self-help building, the veterinarian building, Navy environmental

and Preventative Medicine Unit (NEPMU) seven, the old exchange building, and the teen center. "That area all got knocked down. We took that whole site and are creating the new galley and club," said Morell.

The building will be at the east end of the pedestrian mall that will extend across the flag plaza to the western end. "The Pedestrian mall is a walking mall that extends all the way from a piazza on the western end at the parking lot, through the community building, between the admin building and the chapel, crossing the street at the flag plaza, all the way to a piazza on the east where the dining facility and new MWR facility (which just broke ground) will be," said Morell.

The flag plaza is strategically placed on the mall. "The reason we did that way is so people would slow down as they go through there," said Morell. "We sized it so traffic, particularly big trucks and large buses, would slow down so the pedestrians crossing there would be protected."

As you walk in off of the mall, the Galley-Club

Galley, page 8

Freedom Fest starts today

JO1 Craig Coleman
Staff Writer

If you're looking for fun on this most patriotic of holidays go to NAS I, where Freedom Fest will give you ample opportunity to show your red, white, and blue spirit. From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Pool Follies will precede the opening ceremonies in the NEX parking lot at 4 p.m.

Today's festival highlights include a bodybuilding exposition by Mr. Italy, who, according to Community Activities Director Lana Morano, is looking forward to performing for the American military community. "NAS I Fitness Coordinator Sandy Baert scheduled him to judge our bodybuilding contest," Morano explained. "He accepted, but was forced to withdraw due to his scheduled performance in a major competition. He decided instead to give an exhibition on the 4th of July."



Live music is an important part of all Sigonella festivals, and this year's Freedom Fest is no exception. Appalossa Victor plays from 9:30 to 11 p.m. "They're a good rockin' country band," said Morano. "They'll be a good time."

The festival kicks off early Saturday with a five-kilometer fun run or ruck sack hump at 7 a.m. Two popular live bands are back to grace the festival Saturday night. First up is Mustang Sally, with their rockin' country music at 6:30 p.m., then at 9 p.m. Monella & Her Little Orphans, formerly known as Jansen & Her Sisters, take the stage. "They're a good rock band," said Morano. "(They are) really popular off-base and on."

Sunday promises more live music with the Sigonella festival debut of Shadyside, a band featuring Sigonella musicians. "I like it when we can find a local band composed of military people," said Morano. "I'm really excited about them." Shadyside play hard rock and punk. Freedom Fest 2003 will also include festival favorites like food booths, Tot Town, Liberty Games, carnival rides, a crafts bazaar and more. The festival hours are Today from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m., Saturday from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. and Sunday from 4 to 11 p.m.

Gary Sinise comes to Sig Monday



See Article, page 12

Today's Hometown Weather

SW1 Elliot Sermons, PWD
Valdosta, GA.



High 86° F - Low 72° F
Scattered Thunderstorms



Direct Line

Capt. Tim Davison
NASSIG
Commanding Officer

“When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.”...This is the opening paragraph of The Declaration of Independence signed on July 4, 1776.

By placing their signature on this document, the Continental Congress not only signed the Declaration, but their death warrants as well. They risked it all in order to provide for the birth of a new nation, under one government, for the people and by the people. No kings, dukes, lords, or barons. These extremely patriotic men were just everyday people doing what they thought were the right things to do in order to free themselves and their families of the tyranny that they had lived under for many years.

We are now a part of a 227-year-old nation that has learned from past mistakes and has moved on to become a nation that helps out others when called upon. Whether we are fighting in Iraq or providing humanitarian assistance to the citizens of Liberia, the U.S. stands ready.

Adm. Vern Clark, our Chief of Naval Operations recently said, “The 15 to 20 second version of why we have a Navy: Credible combat power ... far corners of the earth ... sovereignty of the United States of America ... options for the President ...anywhere ... any time ... without a permission slip.”

NASSIG is more than ready and able to do what we need to do to get the job done.

America is still a very young nation compared to Italy or most of the other countries in the world. We are still growing, changing and adapting to the needs of our future. We strive to bring new hope and better lives for our children’s children. We look for better ways to do business. We are constantly upgrading our way of life.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Happy Birthday America!

The Pulse

Are There Poisons In Your Home?

Accidental poisonings in children under five years of age are a common, preventable problem. Toddlers ages one to three are especially at risk of poisonings because they are always exploring and putting things in their mouths. Parental knowledge of this issue combined with simple preventive measures can help decrease the risk of serious illness or death due to poisons in the home.


Types of Household Poison: Many household products can be poisonous if swallowed, if in contact with the skin or eyes, or if inhaled. Here are six categories to be aware of: 1. Medicine: Prescription and Over-the-counter: cardiac medicine, tranquilizers, sleeping pills, antidepressants, iron pills and vitamins, cold and cough medications, acetaminophen, aspirin, 2. Home care products: detergents, furniture polish, drain cleaners, ammonia, lye, paint, paint thinners, turpentine, hair dyes, home perm kits; 3. Poisons: rat poison, insect and bug sprays, 4. Plants: mistletoe, holly berries, poinsettia, 5. Lead: old toys painted with lead paint, improperly glazed pottery, water from very old lead pipes, and 6. Alcohol: rubbing or drinking.

11 Important Safety Rules:

It only takes a few moments for a child to grab and swallow something that could be poisonous. Here’s how to reduce the risk of poisoning and keep your children safe:

- Keep harmful products out of your child’s view and reach.
 - Never leave products under the sink where children can crawl to get them.
 - Never leave products out on a counter where a child can climb and reach them.
 - Lock up all potentially dangerous products—preferably in a high cabinet.
 - Always buy medicine and household products in childproof packaging when available.
- And remember to always replace the childproof lids right after use.

6. Always keep products in their original containers or bottles. Storing cleaning products in juice or soda bottles makes it even more enticing to a toddler who may think it is their favorite drink. It also makes it difficult to know what chemicals were ingested in the event of poisonings, which can cause delays in treatment.



SECURITY BLOTTER

CRIMESTOPPER'S HOTLINE

624-6389

June 23 - June 29

The following incidents were reported and categorized as follows:

Traffic accidents without injuries - 15

Traffic accident with injuries - 1

Car break-ins - 2

DUI - 1

DUI's 2003 - 29

DUI's 2002 - 35

7. Do not call medicine “candy.” Doing so may encourage a child to sneak some while no one is looking.

8. Discard all old and unused medications.

9. Keep the phone numbers of the Sigonella emergency room (624-3844 or 095-56-3844) and the national Poison Control Center hotline (US number 1-800-222-1222) (on base 99-001-880-222-1222 or off base 001-880-222-1222 and the number is charged to your phone by the phone) for easy access in case of emergency.

10. Keep a bottle of syrup of ipecac (which induces vomiting) in your home, but do not use it until you consult with a physician or poison center. Some poisons can cause more harm if vomiting is induced.

11. Educate your children’s caretakers about prevention and procedures in case of an accidental poisoning.

Wine aficionados can get collections stateside

By Robert Szostek
USEUCOM Customs PAO

Mannheim, Germany - Many Americans start a wine collection while stationed in Europe and want to send it to the United States when their overseas tour ends. With a little advance planning and patience, wine connoisseurs can still enjoy their favorite European vintages if they find a way to ship their collection and surmount state and Internal Revenue Service rules.

“First contact the alcohol control board for the state you intend to ship the collection to and ask for the conditions they put on wine shipments quoting the amount, type and cost of the wine,” said Michael L. Burkert of the European Command’s Customs Executive Agency. “They will let you know what to do and how to pay any tax that needs to be paid.” He added that the airport you ship the collection to must have a U.S. Customs Service (USCS) office. “Then, if the state authorities allow wine shipments, find a wine merchant who ships wine collections.” He pointed out

that the U.S. Postal Service will not let you mail wine or other liquor products, and courier companies are often unwilling to ship wine. Military transportation officials may also refuse to put the collection in your personal property shipment because of the damage risk from broken bottles. Some airlines will let you pay for excess checked baggage on the flight home but this is only a solution for a small collection.

After the wine merchant packs the collection, you receive a shipping document and a copy of the bill of sale for the tax and shipping costs. You must take these and a copy of your PCS orders to the transportation office before you fly to the States. There you can get a DD Form 1252 (Customs Declaration) which will help you claim



back the shipping costs later. It is also best to find out your shipment’s airline, flight number, date of arrival and, most important of all, its shipping document number before you fly.

“When you arrive stateside, go to the airport’s cargo section with the shipping documents,” Burkert went on. “They will give you additional paperwork to take to the USCS office.” Customs will work out the duty and IRS tax and stamp your customs clearance. Customs officials report that the duty on still wine is currently 8.4 cents per liter, but goes up to 19.8 cents for sparkling wine but can be as little as 3.5 cents for vermouth. IRS tax depends on the alcoholic strength of the beverage concerned and works out to around 6 cents per liter for wine. “Take your customs clearance back to the cargo section where the collection is released to you,” Burkert concluded. He

added that you can claim back the shipping costs from the finance office at your new duty station with the DD Form 1252 mentioned earlier. However, any duty or tax you pay is not reimbursable and the rates of tax and duty are subject to change.

Follow these rules and you can continue to enjoy the best products of Old World vineyards at your new stateside home for many years to come. Call a military customs office to find out more about shipping liquor products to the United States or consult the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms web site at www.atf.treas.gov/alcohol/info/persimp.htm. Links to state alcohol control boards can be found at www.hqsareur.army.mil/opm/state.htm.

NAS Sigonella Worship Opportunities

Catholic Mass

Saturday 5 p.m. Chapel (NAS II)
Sunday 9 a.m. Chapel (NAS I)
Sunday 9 a.m. in Italian 41st Stormo Chapel (NAS II)
Sunday 11 a.m. Community Center (Mineo)

Protestant Traditional Worship
Sunday 9 a.m. Chapel (NAS II)

Protestant Worship
Sunday 9 a.m. Community Center (Mineo)
Sunday 11 a.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Sunday 1 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Church of Christ
Sunday 3:30 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Jewish Shabbat Service
Last Friday of the month 5 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Weekdays
Daily Catholic Mass 11:30 a.m. (NAS I & II Chapels)
Wednesday Protestant Bible Study 4:45 p.m. (NAS II Chapel)
For more details, call 624-4295 or 624-2947.

Happy birthday America

By Chaplain
Phillip B. Creider
Command Chaplain

Happy Birthday America! Today, we proudly celebrate our two hundred twenty-seventh birthday.

We are a wonderful country with a wonderful history. Coming to our shores, our first explorers braved trials and dangers, seeking a New World with new opportunities. They brought with them their hope and their faith. Their first act upon coming ashore for the first time was to consecrate the new land to God, to thank Him for His help in getting there, and to call upon Him for His continued blessings and success.

Later, as our land continued to grow, different colonies were established to protect the rights and liberties that the Old World could not guarantee. There were squabbles among them, but they could not mar the basic American dream that God’s Law and Providence would reign above all their goals and accomplishments.

The Declaration of Independence, whose signing we celebrate today, begins by calling upon God, our Creator, to be a witness and guide for our undertaking, our quest for freedom and independence. At the conclusion of our Declaration of Independence, our Founding Fathers call upon the Supreme Judge of the World to witness their acts, and to ask divine Providence to secure victory for their struggle.

It has not been easy for us to be a free and independent country. We have struggled against many nations who have sought to take away from us what God had wonderfully given us. Even in the midst of our own Civil War, President Lincoln, at Gettysburg, invoked the blessing of God upon our war-torn nation, praying that our nation would survive.

Perhaps the greatest threat that our nation has ever experienced was in the Second World War, when the likes of Nazism, Fascism, and Imperial Japanese aggression were aligned against us and sought to destroy us. The rest of the whole world had collapsed or was close to collapse. President Roosevelt repeatedly asked the Blessings of Almighty God upon our country and armed forces. Our whole nation was called to prayer on each step to victory. We know who won.

Our patriotic songs, which mirror the soul of America, also recall the foundation of our greatness. Our National Anthem, in its second verse, written during The War of 1812, declares, “Blessed with victory and peace, may this Heaven rescued land praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.” In another of our favorite hymns “God Bless America” we ask God we ask stand beside us and guide us “through the night with the light from above”. Our own “Navy Hymn” reminds us that the true strength of our Navy is, “Eternal Father, Strong to Save”.

Our whole American history is permeated with the presence of God. Our values, our goals, our strengths, and our victories have come from Him. On the Great Seal of the United States, above “The Eye of God,” we see the words, “Annuit Coeptis,” – “He has favored our undertaking”. Indeed, He has. Even our Motto is, “In God We Trust”.

As Americans, these are things that we remember today. It is God, His Providence, and His care that have made us to be the great nation that we are. We cannot afford to take Him for granted, or worse, remove Him from our midst. Our freedom and independence have come from Him. To think that we can do without God would be to invite our own disaster. We cannot write Him out of our lives and then expect Him to show up when we are in trouble.

May God bless forever the United States of America. May He make us worthy of His continued Blessings!
Happy Birthday, America!

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NAVY NEWS

Ready, set, go live — Sailor continuum comes to life

JO1 Jd Walter
Naval Personnel Development
Command Public Affairs Office

NORFOLK, Va. - Attention All Hands. Beta version of the 5 Vector Model (5VM) is about to hit the Fleet. The pilot version is being tested in the AG, MS, and IT communities, with future versions to be released to all others as their professional development continuums become available.

"The 5 Vector Model we're building for every rating in the Navy, is more important to Sailors than many realize," said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy MCPON(SS/AW) Terry Scott. "It is essential that every Sailor log into the 5VM and provide feedback to ensure this career management tool constantly grows and develops to meet the changing needs of Sailors and the Navy."

Sea Warrior, the Navy's human resource initiative, is comprised of both the 5VM and Naval Personnel Command's (NPC) Career Management System (CMS), and uses the latest in systems technology to create an integrated career management tool that allows Sailors to more successfully plan and execute their careers, and then reap the rewards of serving, whether for one tour or until retirement. Accessed through Navy Knowledge Online (NKO), the 5VM is both a roadmap and a resume, explicitly showing Sailors what they need to know, when they need to know it, and how to go about getting that knowledge, skill, or ability.

"This is an important achievement for the Navy," said AGCM(SW) Bill Adamo of the Naval Personnel Development Command Functional

Integration Management Team. "Some of the goals of the Sea Warrior initiative are to give Sailors college credits and professional certification by infusing learning with the best that technology has to offer, and creating a performance based advancement process. But, these things must be accessible to Sailors for us to be successful."

Enter the 5VM. It gives Sailors a single point of access for all information and resources related to planning and managing their professional and personal lives, and is customized to the individual. Once logged in, Sailors can access their professional and personal development, leadership, certifications and qualifications, and performance vectors. Upon each vector requirements, or milestones, are plotted, these are linked to the supporting courses (residency, computer based, Web delivered), tools, and resources available. Based on achieved milestones, the 5VM tracks a Sailor's ranking among his or her peers; identifies promotion potential and feeds various databases from which the electronic training jacket is created. Through the 5VM Sailors will also link to the CMS to identify duty assignments that are the best fit for continued development and promotion, as well as alternative duty assignments and non military educational opportunities.

"The onus to achieve success remains on the Sailor, to be sure," said Adamo. "But the 5VM will ensure they are given all the right tools and opportunities to do so. And when they excel, they will be appropriately rewarded."

Again in a coordinated effort with NPC, a performance vector is being

developed that factors in promotions based on a Sailors' achievements and proficiencies, not simply on time in rank, or advancement exam results. Sea Warrior will ultimately bring together the 5VM and CMS to create an integrated detailing system so Sailors can apply for duty assignments while logged in.

While automated 5VMs will initially only be available for Aerographer's Mates (AG), Mess Management Specialists (MS), and Information Systems Technicians (IT), a demo version will also be released so all Sailors have the opportunity to interact with the new tool and provide valuable feedback to developers and the Learning Centers. Like any software being developed the 5VM is being released to a limited number of users as an initial test of the system. As professional development continuums are completed they will be integrated into the 5VM and released to those communities. Likewise, as upgrades are made, new versions of the 5VM will be released. But unlike computer software, Sailors will not have to perform any maintenance themselves, as the system will automatically upgrade itself and any changes made will be reflected when the Sailor logs in.

"This isn't just another catchphrase or hollow program," said Scott. "It truly is going to be the roadmap for every Sailor. And we know we can't just focus only on the new Sailors coming up our brow, it's also very mindful of Sailors who are already well into their Navy careers. All Sailors will be given a clear career path, for all aspects of their progress from Seaman to Master Chief; or from Ensign to Admiral."

Annual Military Training Exercise in Brunei Underway

By Lt. Chuck Bell,
Cooperation Afloat Training and Readiness
Public Affairs



With the guided missile cruiser USS Vincennes (CG 49) pier side, the rescue and salvage ship USS Safeguard (ARS 50) arrives here for the week-long Brunei phase, of exercise Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT).

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM (NNS) — A ceremony in Brunei Darussalam June 24 marked the formal opening of the ninth edition of an annual military training exercise between personnel of the Royal Brunei armed forces and U.S. Sailors and Marines.

The weeklong Brunei phase of exercise Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT), which actually began June 23 with the arrival of a three-ship U.S. Navy task group with an embarked U.S. Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF), will include training in a variety of areas, such as at-sea maneuvering and communications, command and control, diving and salvage, force protection, maritime patrol and jungle operations.

U.S. Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam Gene B. Christy joined military personnel of all ranks in the crowd during the ceremony, which took place at the Royal Brunei Land Force Berakas Garrison. The venue was symbolic of the growth of CARAT — a predominantly sea service-oriented exercise — in Brunei.

Acting commander of the Royal Brunei Navy, Lt. Col. Joharie Bin HJ Matussin, the ceremony's guest speaker, noted the exercise's expansion in his remarks, pointing out that CARAT evolved from an earlier navy-to-navy version, Kingfisher.

"It was a straightforward exercise which was strictly confined to the two naval forces," he said. "Over the years, the scale of the exercise has evolved and now, under the CARAT program, involves assets from the other elements of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces."

CARAT, page 12

Recap CORNER

Residenza dei Marinai opens 160 new units

On June 17 we accepted another 160 housing units at the Residenza Dei Marinai Family Housing Complex for a total of 366 delivered units. The Residenza Dei Marinai complex, just to the north of the NAS II main gate, will ultimately contain 526 family housing units. The most recent delivery included four officer four bedroom units, eight senior enlisted four bedroom units, eight officer three bedroom units, 38 senior enlisted three bedroom units, and 102 junior enlisted three bedroom units. There are 160 housing units remaining to be delivered (20 — four bedroom and 140 — three bedroom units). By the end of July, we expect to complete the construction of six additional playgrounds and in October we can expect completion of the little league and soccer fields. The final adult softball field is planned for completion in November 2003. Delivery of the remaining units is planned in July 2004 (118 units) and July 2005 (42 units).

How SIG 2.3 Affects You: Utilities work at the end of Halsey Road near the Stephen Decatur School is complete and the gravel parking area will be available for Freedom Fest. The pick up and drop off area for the NAS I-NAS II bus stop remains changed to the parking lot at the side of the CDC. School is out until September, so the loop road will be open. On June 23 we started installing the sewer line in Forrestal Road in front of the old library-Live Wire and that work will be complete late this month. In September we will close Sherman Road to install the new electrical line in the center of the road and this will require restricted one-way traffic.

If you have any questions about SIG 2.3 construction, contact Lt. Darren Hale at haled@nassig.sicily.navy.mil.

ATF East returns from Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom

By JO1(SW) Chris Hoffpaur, USS Kearsarge Public Affairs

AT SEA IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN (NNS) — Six Hampton Roads-based ships that participated in the largest amphibious force assembled in decades are returning from an unplanned six-month deployment that began in early January in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

The ships are USS Kearsarge (LHD 3), USS Bataan (LHD 5), USS Saipan (LHA 2), and USS Ponce (LPD 15), based at Naval Station Norfolk, Va., and USS Ashland (LSD 48) and USS Gunston Hall (LSD 44), based at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Va. All six ships will return to homeport between June 25 and June 30, and represent the last of the homecoming ships that were specifically deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

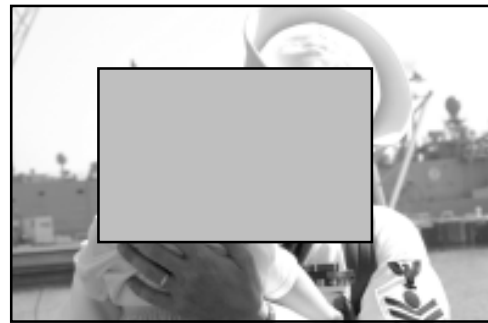
Additional naval support elements returning include fleet surgical teams (FST), Helicopter Combat Support Squadron detachments (HC), Assault Craft Unit 4 detachments (ACU), a Fleet Information Warfare Center (FIWC) detachment, a Naval Beach Group (NAVBEACHGRU) detachment, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) detachment and a Tactical Air Control Squadron (TACRON).

This group of Atlantic Fleet ships, along with USS Portland (LSD 37), formed Amphibious Task Force East (ATFE), the most powerful amphibious force ever to leave the East Coast. Combining nearly 5,000 Sailors and the nearly 8,000 embarked troops of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade (2D MEB) from Camp Lejeune, N.C., the force had 13,000 personnel. 2D MEB's Commanding General is Brig. Gen. Richard Natonski.

Commander, Amphibious Group 2, Rear Adm. Michael P. Nowakowski, assembled the ships and led ATF-E to the Arabian Gulf. Commander, Amphibious Squadron 8 (CPR-8), Capt. Gregg Jackson, retained tactical control of the ships in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) as hostilities commenced against the Iraqi regime, and leads the force back to Hampton Roads.

The task force, known as the "Magnificent Seven" and the "Beast from the East," also carried aircraft of the 2nd Marine Air Wing. The group's mission was to deliver the fighting force to the battle space.

From the moment the ships deployed, some as much as a year earlier than planned, ATF-E began making history. With minimal planning time, the onload of the 2D MEB was conducted quickly and safely, proving the expeditionary force was indeed ready to meet the challenge issued by President George W. Bush following Sept. 11. The surge deployment also helped prove the time to prepare for a deployment can be shortened. The surge of ATF-E is one of the successes that now drives the Navy to revamp its inter-deployment training cycle (IDTC).



U.S. Navy photo

EM2 Kenneth Jelinek holds his four-month-old son for the first time. Jelinek is stationed aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5) returning home from deployment in the Arabian Gulf, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

News Briefs

Jobs Available

Stephen Decatur Secondary School is looking for substitute teachers and AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) tutors. AVID tutors work with college bound students in a special class and are paid hourly substitute pay. To be an AVID tutor, one needs to be committed to the program, able to motivate young people, and believe that a college education is important. Call 624-4285 to find out more.

School Sports Physical

There will be a Sports Physical Clinic for the upcoming school year on Aug 28. All middle and high school students planning to play sports during the school year can stop by the school cafeteria from 9 a.m. to noon. You can pick up the physical form at the hospital or SAO office and complete prior to clinic. Parents must be present with student unless he/she is already enrolled in teen clinic. No appointments are needed. First come first serve. Call 624-4281/4284.

Job Opening

The Hospital is soliciting for one full-time personalized service contract for an ambulatory care registered nurse. Closing date is July 16. Sources must be eligible for u.s. employment and U.S. board certified. Solicitation packages are available at the Supply Department, Purchasing Office, NAS II. Call Mrs. Saladino at 624-5723 or Mr. Randazzo at 624-3792.

World Championship Tournament

The U.S. Women's Field Hockey Team will be participating in the World Championship Tournament in Catania from July 5 thru 13. Competing teams include U.S., Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand and Spain. ITT will be sponsoring a trip to cheer on the U.S. team when they face Japan on July 12. Call 624-4396.

Elton John Tickets

A few additional tickets have come available for Elton John. They are on sale first come first served! Call 624-4396 for more information.

THE ENERGY BLOCK

New inventions are being thought of every day to coincide with all the new technologies being discovered. Sometimes it seems almost overwhelming deciding which path one is going to take in the purchasing dept. Along with the new ideas comes energy, the one resource that will always be needed to mechanically, electrically, physically, or manually power these new inventions. Luckily for society there are those who are looking at producing better more efficient cost saving devices. Promising new engineering experiments using alternative energy sources are not only environmentally friendly, but also lead our scientists toward greater energy conservation technologies.

Windmills have been around for years. An inexpensive, almost pollution free way to produce cheap electricity. Using the same principles, someone with a creative mind thought of harnessing the oceans currents so that, according to Martain Wright of Marine Turbines Ltd. "There is at least 10 gigawatts of power available from the tidal power just in the UK. That's the same as about half of the existing nuclear industry".

Becoming a rival to wind because of the reliability, it is built on the seabed and protrudes just a few meters above the surface. Environmentally safe it prevents no danger to marine life because the blades rotate very slowly. In the very near future it seems we can expect to see virtual tidal farms around our coasts. A very big improvement from the oil platforms that are there now I think.

DID YOU KNOW: The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy estimates that if each of us increased the energy efficiency of our major appliances by 10 to 30 percent, we'd reduce the demand for electricity by the equivalent of 25 large power plants.

LETS USE, NOT ABUSE



By Alberto Lunetta
Signature Staff

Italian News

Sicilian culture and lifestyle

Natalie Cole to perform in Catania

Jazz aficionados will enjoy the concert of Natalie Cole, a gifted singer whose repertoire includes contemporary pop, jazz, as well as R&B classics, on July 11 at the *Villa Bellini* or public gardens. The daughter of the legendary singer Nat “King” Cole” will be playing at 9:30 p.m. The cost of a ticket ranges from 50 to 15 Euro. For more information call Box office at 095- 7225340.

Saint Rosalia four hundreds years of devotion in Palermo

“Nun mi cuntari li tri ghiorna d’u finistu.” This traditional Sicilian idiom literally meaning “don’t tell me about the three-day festival (honoring Saint Rosalia),” to say: “don’t tell me what everybody already knows,” is the proof of the immense popularity that this festival has been enjoying in Palermo since ancient times.

Patrick Brydone, a Scottish traveler who toured the south of Italy in the 18th century, recorded one of the most memorable accounts of the Saint Rosalia Festival. In his book called *A Tour though Sicily and Malta* (dating to 1773) he gives a vivid description of the chariot’s parade: “The triumphal chariot was preceded by a party of men on horseback, with trumpets and drums, and by all the high officials of the city in full regalia. The “machine” is truly enormous: it measures seventy feet in length, thirty in width and over eighty in height; as it passes through the streets, it towers above Palermo’s tallest houses. The lower part looks like a Roman galley, but it widens towards the upper part. The front part is broader and shaped like an oval amphitheatre, with seats all around: this is the great orchestra, thronged with musicians in several rows, one above the other. At the back of the orchestra rises a great cupola, supported by six Corinthian columns and adorned with numerous figures of saints and angels, with a gigantic silver statue of Santa Rosalia on the top.”

Today, thanks to modern technology, the festival is even more spectacular than it used to be in the past. This year, the *festino* or little festival (a nickname name that does not give you a realistic idea of what the festival actually is!) celebrates its 379th anniversary. During the festival, which runs from July 10 through 15, the city turns into a vivid stage featuring parades, concerts, shows, fireworks, food stalls and religious processions. Yet, the *festino*, which is among the oldest and most spectacular festivals in the whole Mediterranean area, yearly draws thousands of local residents, tourists and Sicilian immigrants who return to the island to celebrate with relatives and friends their beloved patron saint.

Saint Rosalia, who is also affectionately called *Santuzza* or little Saint, was the daughter of a noble family of northeastern Sicily and a descendant of Charlemagne. She lived in the second half of the twelfth century. According to tradition, she left home when she was still young woman to live as a hermit and hid herself in a cave of Mount Quisquinia near Bivona and later in another of Monte Pellegrino near Palermo. She lived in the latter cave until she died and she was also buried there. In 1624, her remains were discovered and brought to the Cathedral of Palermo. The devotion that palermitani (Palermo’s townspeople) have for *Santa Rosalia* (Saint Rosalia) dates back to 1624. Rosalia is believed to have averted a terrible epidemic of plague that broke out in Palermo. According to tradition, despite the *palermitani* repeatedly invoked the four city co-patron

saints (Cristina, Ninfa, Oliva and Agata) against the terrible disease, plague still spread at a horrifying rate. But a miracle occurred when a soap manufacturer named Vincenzo Banelli, whose wife died because of the epidemic, urged the Palermo Cardinal to hold a procession featuring the relics of Saint Rosalia throughout the city. Tradition holds that *Santa Rosalia* appeared in a vision to Banelli instructing him that if her earthly remains would be taken in procession through the city, plague would cease. Thus, on July 14, 1624, a magnificent procession featuring the saint *reliquie* or relics placed in a silver case of crimson velvet, and accompanied by the Royal Council, the Senate, illustrious citizens and all the clergy, took place in Palermo. At the end of it, the plague was over. Since 1624, every year, the Palermo’s community has been celebrating with true devotion its patron saint.

July 14 is the highlight of the festival. At 9 p.m., the spectacular re-enactment of the miracle performed by Saint Rosalia begins in the historic heart of Palermo. Shows featuring the parade of the *Carro Trionfale* or triumphal chariot, a spectacular Baroque-styled construction shaped like a ship, are performed along corso (avenue) Vittorio Emanuele, the Royal Palace, the cathedral and piazza Vigliena also known as *Quattro Canti*, a breathtaking octagonal square illuminated by the sun’s rays from dusk to dawn in which the four oldest districts of the city intersect in one point.

Complementing the festival, an art exhibition featuring the silver and wooden urn that contained the relics of the saint until 1631 and nine paintings depicting Saint Rosalia is held through Sept. 4 at the cathedral.

For more information and detailed schedules call Palermo Tourist Office at 091-583 847 or 091-6058351.

Music festival in Mascalucia

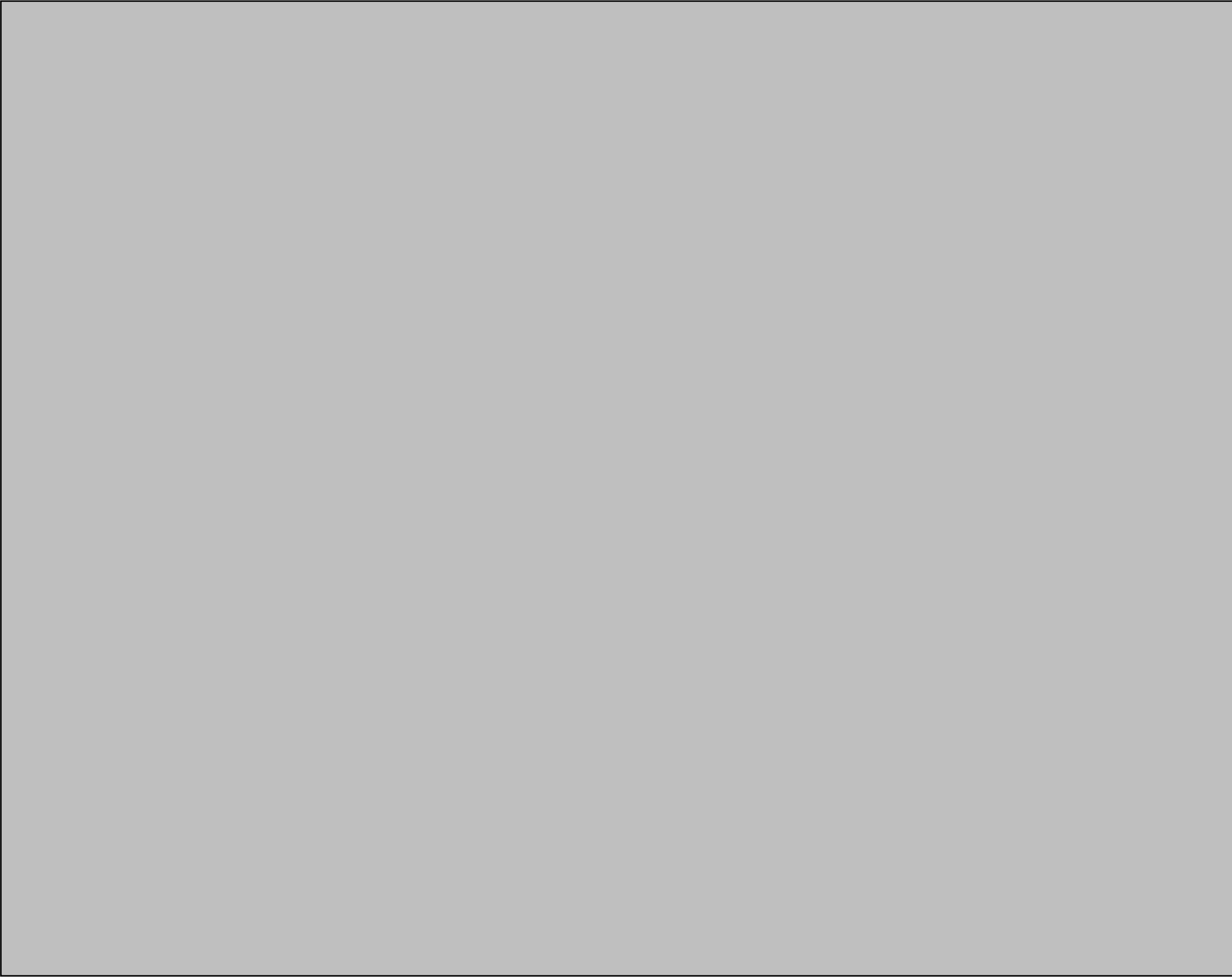
A music festival featuring top Italian singers will be held from July 6 through Aug. 25 in piazza Falcone Borsellino. The festival kicks off July 6 with the concert of rock artist Piero Pelù. Bobby Solo, an artist who brought the style of the great Elvis Presley onto the Italian music scene, back in the mid-60s, will perform on July 19. Festival also includes the concerts of pop singer Mario Venuti from Catania (Aug. 1) and Massimo Ranieri, a world-renowned Neapolitan pop singer/actor of the 60s (Aug.25). For more information and tickets call *Box Office* at 095-7225340 or *Primafila* 095-7151740. All concerts will start at 9:30 p.m.



Picture courtesy of the Palermo Tourist Office

From July 10 through 15, Palermo will celebrate the 379th festival of Saint Rosalia. A spectacular religious festival, it will feature parades, concerts, shows, fireworks, food stalls and religious processions. On the evening of July 14, the climax of the festival celebrations, the spectacular re-enactment of the miracle performed by Saint Rosalia will be held in the historic heart of Palermo. Shows also feature the parade of the *Carro Trionfale* or triumphal chariot, a spectacular Baroque-styled construction shaped like a ship.

SUNDAYMONDAYTUESDAYWEDNESDAYTHURSDAYFRIDAYSATURDAY						
COMMUNITY CALENDAR					4	5
					JULY	Fourth of July
6	Caccamo Castle & Roccapalumba ITT Call 624-4396	7	8	9	10	11
			Scicli & Avide Winery Trip ITT Call 624-4396	Elton John in Concert ITT Call 624-4396	Dive-In Movie cool off while watching a movie and eating BBQ NAS II Pool Liberty Call 624-5187	12
13	Lipari Express tour the island of Lipari ITT Call 624-4396	14	15	16	17	18
		Conversational Italian Classes ITT Call 624-4396	Youth Bowling Bargains until Aug 2 ages 16 and younger TENPINS Call 624-4302	Motorcycle Safety Standdown 8 to 11:15 a.m. Base Theater	Photo Safari Meeting 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Golden Anchor Call 624-3718	Frozen Friday free popsicles while supplies last Take 5
19						
						Visit Palermo ITT Call 624-4396
20	Eraclea Minoa & Beach ITT Call 624-4396	21	22	23	24	25
		National Ice Cream Day free ice cream sandwiches while supplies last Take 5	Kool & the Gang with Earth, Wind and Fire ITT Call 624-4396	Rainbow Playgroup every Wed. 10 to 11 p.m. 205 Housing	Etna Land Water Park AU Call 624-4271	Caltigirone Candelighting Festa di San Giacomo Liberty Call 624-5187
26						
						Hike of the Month: Pantallica Gorge & Anapo Valley Liberty Call 624-5187
27		28	29	30	31	
		Special Additions 1 to 3 p.m. Comm. Bldg. room 203 Call 624-4291		Rainbow Playgroup every Wed. 10 to 11 p.m. 205 Housing	Anger Management 5 to 6 p.m. Hospital 2A-111 Call 624-4291	



Word Find

Signer of the Declaration of Independence

Y E N D O R N N H J J F N V E M S T E E Z N L M E
R P Y M U O E O L B W H O O U L T T L M O C E I E
E H E S T Y P K C O C N A H T E P L O T C N W D L
A F H X V K H E Y W A R D V N S E P G N M T I D S
D E A W I E H T Y W S U R N T R G N I T E A S L E
P R J N I N O T L A W E I U Y T I N R H E Y T E C
B W S N I L K N A R F W W D T T E A I Z W L O T N
O O N L X H S R X P G C U E N L H L I V K O C O A
N L I S E B O O V E O J N U H E E S T S I R K N R
G C K X G E N J N F G P H H O N S D J R D L T J F
V O P S S O R E E N B P S U G O K M G V A I O U L
L T O C Z W N S C F T N F H H T M H D E V B N K P
A T H T X G N W C U F H A T E N N P A C A W B I I
N O O P S R E H T I W E I A C R H A R R I S O N H
H A S L K U P K G F S M R A U O M H E L X F R T M
G A P S L P R E X A S N R S Q H I A L K L O E H L
Q J O H N A D A M S Z R O E O T K I N O C Z M L V
S N O H L Z H U Z R O U J S L N A T Y H U M Y Q A
H O H C L Z E Y A L R L B L M D D J V R N L W S
L J J K Z L S R L X H E W D S E H Z Y U X O C Y Q
C C J S A I Z E F X C G M Q V V N W K U G X S B D
F T Z D R H G P A I N E E V Y K D M B W M L K J V
I F A R V T T O P X Y Z W R G J V W N U C A X R R
P M O R T O N O J U L B N L R C H A S E L T T C M
S M U K E F V H U Y R J Q Y C Y E D Z V Y K O C I

READ
RODNEY
ROSS
RUSH
RUTLEDGE
SAMUELADAMS
SHERMAN
SMITH
STOCKTON
STONE
TAYLOR
THORNTON
WALTON
WHIPPLE
WILLIAMS
WILSON
WITHERSPOON
WOLCOTT
WYTHE

BARTLETT	FRANKLIN	HOOPER	LYNCH
BRAXTON	GERRY	HOPKINS	MCKEAN
CARROLL	GWINNETT	HOPKINSON	MIDDLETON
CHASE	HALL	HUNTINGTON	MORRIS
CLARK	HANCOCK	JEFFERSON	MORTON
CLYMER	HARRISON	JOHNADAMS	NELSON
ELLERY	HART	LEE	PACA
FLOYD	HEWES	LEWIS	PAINE
FRANCESLEE	HEYWARD	LIVINGSTON	PENN

TRIVIA

Who has appeared on the cover of "Life" magazine more than anyone else?
What is the only vegetable flavored ice cream that was ever produced, but had to be discontinued because no one bought it?
Who was the only unmarried U.S. president?
What percent of movies released are rated R?
What was the first T.V. toy commercial in 1946 for?
(Answers on page 10)




Movie Connection

Movie's Theater Schedule




Friday, July 4

	1 p.m. The Lizzie McGuire Movie (PG) **
	3:30 p.m. Malibu's Most Wanted (PG-13)
	6 p.m. The Hulk(PG-13) **



Saturday, July 5

	2 p.m. Finding Nemo (G)
	4:30 p.m. Bullet Proof Monk (PG-13)
	7 p.m. The Matrix Reloaded (R)



Sunday, July 6

	1 p.m. The Lizzie McGuire Movie (PG)
	3:30 p.m. It Runs in the Family (PG-13)
	6 p.m. Identity (R)



Monday, July 7

	5:30 p.m. Malibu's Most Wanted (PG-13)
	8 p.m. The Hulk (PG-13)



Tuesday, July 8

	5:30 p.m. Identity (R)
	8 p.m. X2: X-Men United (PG-13)



Wednesday, July 9

	5:30 p.m. Holes (PG)
	8 p.m. It Runs in the Family (PG-13)

Thursday, July 10

	5:30 p.m. Malibu's Most Wanted (PG-13)
	8 p.m. The Matrix Reloaded (R)

Friday, July 11

	5:30 p.m. Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) **
	8:30 p.m. Identity (R)

Shout

DoDDs students talk about what's happening in the community



White House tee ball hits home run with Navy kids

By Ellen Maurer, National Naval Medical Center Public Affairs

BETHESDA, Md. (NNS) — It was Army vs. Navy all over again June 22. In the year's first game of the White House's "Tee Ball on the South Lawn," the Fort Belvoir Little League Braves battled the Norfolk, Va., Naval Base Little League Yankees.

For what? For fun, of course. Crowds of cheering fans gathered in stands set-up at the prestigious 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. site, as 28 tots batted up and played ball Sunday. President George W. Bush and first lady Laura Bush, sat alongside parents and military families in the bleachers.

Seemingly unaware of their distinguished surroundings, the little leaguers played a fairly entertaining game. Highlights included one surprise pop-fly catch from a 5-year-old infielder, and in a separate play, a heart-racing inside-the-park home run.

Baseball legend and former Orioles shortstop Cal Ripken Jr. came out of retirement again for this year's first game, announcing he would reassume his position as White House Tee Ball Commissioner.

Well-known ESPN announcer Kenny Mayne called the game, announcing each pint-sized player as if they were a "Hall of Famer."

Although Mayne quoted "stats" of the players, everything from their favorite food to what they want to be when they grow up, he didn't keep score or announce a winning team. The 4-foot warriors just played until everyone got the chance to hit.

Then satisfied, they flocked to nearby picnic tables for a fitting feast of hot dogs and pretzels.

National Naval Medical Center staff member Lt. Cmdr. Ed Austin's three sons, Robert, 10, Billy, 8, and Ian, 2, attended the game. Although the boys weren't on the official tee ball team, the day was far from a strike-out.

Both Robert and Billy got the chance to ask the president and Ripken to sign their baseball and hat. Robert Austin recalls the "once-in-a-lifetime" encounter.

"It was amazing to meet the president," said Robert, retrospectively recalling their conversation. "He said, 'Have a nice day,' and I said, 'You, too!'"

Annual ceremony set to commemorate Declaration of Independence

From the Navy News Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Along with the usual noise associated with outdoor barbecues, parties and parades, people living in close proximity to landmarks and Navy bases across the country will have a ringing sensation in their ears in the early afternoon July 4.

The sound will be part of the "Let Freedom Ring" ceremony, sponsored by the Philadelphia Society of the Sons of the Revolution. The event, held annually on the Fourth of July, commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

In preparation for the ceremony, the Sons of the Revolution and Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Vern Clark have requested cooperation from all Navy ships and shore installations.

The society requests all Navy shore stations and ships at sea and in port to ring their bells 13 times at 2 p.m. EDT on American's birthday.

The Sons of the Revolution began the traditional ceremony in 1963. At that time, Richard W. Thorington, then president of the Society, explained that "Let Freedom Ring" was established to "revive the spirit of patriotism" and to provide "a dignified ceremony which will have important meaning for millions of Americans who love their country and have faith in its future."

Although the celebration is initiated in Philadelphia, it is truly a nationwide event. In accordance with the U.S. Congress' Concurrent Resolution No. 25, bells across the country are to be rung 13 times at exactly 2 p.m. EDT in honor of the 13 original states.

The ceremony begins in grand style in Philadelphia, with four young descendants of the signers of the Declaration of Independence tapping the world-famous Liberty Bell at the appointed time, setting off the chimes of freedom from bell towers throughout the country.

The event has slowly grown in the decades since Congress adopted Resolution 25 into existence June 26, 1963, with more than 10,000 participants taking part last year.

This week on...

Mon. Jul 7 - West Wing

AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM

Tue. Jul 8 - Movie: Varsity Blues

AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM

Wed. Jul 9 - Fear Factor

AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM

Thu. Jul 10 - Friends

AFN Atlantic 7:00 PM

Fri. Jul 11 - The Simpsons

AFN Atlantic 7:00 PM

THE ROCK SHOW ON 106.0 ZFM WEEKDAYS

FROM 3 PM - 6 PM

FOR LATEST NEWS HAPPENING IN THE

COMMUNITY GO TO AFN SIGONELLA'S

WEBSITE AT afneurope.net/sigonella/

Fri. July 4-6

Enjoy the Freedom Fest and play some wacky and wild Liberty games. Win BIG prizes! Come to the MWR tent for more information.

Sat. July 5

Discover the natural beauty of the coastal town of Sciacca, known for its thermal spa and ceramic industry. You'll have plenty of time to shop in the mourning before spending a couple hours the beach. Call ITT for more information at X4396/X4777.

On your mark, get set go and register for the Freedom Fest 5k fun run. pre-register by 5 p.m. today at the NAS I or NAS II fitness Centers. Race day registration is from 6:30 to 7:15 a.m. Run starts at 7:30 at the NAS I Fitness Center.

Sun. July 6

Start the morning touring the castle in Caccamo. After lunch continue on to Roccapalumba. Visit the town's historic water-powered flourmill as well as the modern powered Planetarium. Call ITT for more information at X4396/X477.

Tues. July 8

At 4:30 play Golden Eye 007 at Take 5 for free and win!

Explore Mt. Etna on horseback! Experienced riding instructors will guide you on a 3-hour horse trek up the volcano. Call Adventures Unlimited for more information at X4271/X3718.

Wed. July 9

Let ITT take you to see Sicili. Then enjoy wine tasting and lunch at an agrituristic farm. Call them for more information at X4396/X4777.

Enjoy an Arabic dine-out. Let Liberty take you out and pay up to ten euro for your meal. Bring extra euro f you plan to eat more. Call them for more information at X5187.

Enjoy free sugar cookies at Take 5 while supplies last!

Thurs. July 10

Come see Elton John live at the Taormina Greek Theater. Call Liberty for more information at X5187.

Splash and splash with Adventures Unlimited at Etna Land Water Park and Zoo. Bring euro for entrance fees, rentals and food.

Reservist from page 1

territory. Cresenzi recalls the eruption of Mt. Etna. “There was about an inch of ash on the airfield,” he said. “After consulting with the local nationals we were able to get additional sweepers to clear the runways.”

After 19 months as Air Traffic Control’s Operation Duty Officer, Cresenzi will switch hats, returning home to his family and civilian occupation. “He will be missed a great deal,” said Coogan. “His attitude and exceptional performance are inspiration to us all. I was impressed with the amount of work he accomplished, interacting with the local nationals, and on and off base transient commands. I wish we had 100 more Sailors just like him.”



Photo by J02 David Hamilton

AC2 Walter Cresenzi, air traffic control's operation duty office, oversees all daily activity on the airfield, including flight line access, construction, utilization of ramp spaces, and airfield maintenance.

Galley from page 1

will present some interesting views. “You walk into this huge circular rotunda with clear story windows all the way around the top to let light in, with a circular stair that goes up,” Morell illustrated. “When you look up, you can see a wooden ceiling, and you stand on a polished marble floor.”

As you continue, you go straight through the rotunda to the check-in desk for the galley. “It has a overhead spotlighted counter where you check in and pay to have meals,” said Morell. The facility will have a regular meal line and a speed line past the regular. Then you come to the standard area for salads, beverages, coffee, bread, and etc.

Past that is a dining area that seats about the same amount of people as the old galley. “The dining area has French doors that all can be opened up, and they look out onto the pedestrian mall,” Morell continued. “There’s an outside dining area for the galley, and there’s an outside dining area for the club on the other end. It’s wonderful to be able to take advantage of the weather we have here. To take advantage of that ambiance of seeing pedestrians walking by and being able to chat with your friends is a real change from what you see in a 1950’s building.” The galley also has a VIP dining room for about 40 people.

On the second floor, a special events room for luncheons and special functions will add a nice touch. “The special events room has a

room divider to turn it into two rooms, or you can have one room that seats about 130 people in it,” Morell said. “It has an elevator to take food or party stuff up there. It has a little side kitchen up there as well.” A bridge on the second story connects the special events room to an exterior patio terrace on the second floor. “It also allows you to have a special event where you’re not just confined to the room,” he added.

How about those who like to get down and boogie? “The club is going to have a brand new wooden dance floor,” Said Morell, “and it’s going to have a bar that can serve patrons to the outside as well as the inside.” The club will be about the same size as Live Wire and will still feature pool tables and slot machines.

The nearby East Central Energy building

will provide the facility, and the MWR facility, with all of the hot water, heat, and air conditioning. “One of the things that’s worthy of note is we’re bringing natural gas onto the base,” said Morell. “Up until this time, all of our boilers were oil fired. There’s a huge difference in terms of the environmental pollution between natural gas fired and oil fired.” The facility will run on natural gas with oil for backup.

“I think people are going to love it,” said Morell. “We have design elements that we’ve incorporated into the buildings to give them some visual interest. We’ve tried to incorporate some additional material and visual elements in the buildings that make them a little more interesting than a standard building. I think that the people’s reactions to this will be very

CNE Sailor chosen as Shore Sailor of the Year

By JOC(SW) Jason Chudy
Navy Region Europe Public Affairs

NAPLES, Italy— The direction was clear but the mission wasn’t easy. Take the top five regional shore Sailors of the Year and find the best one to name as the U.S. Naval Forces Europe Sailor of the Year.

It took a week of uniform inspections, physical fitness sessions and question-and-answer boards for the region’s most senior master chief petty officers to decide. They chose MM1(SW) Marc Medina of Naval Support Activity Naples, Italy, to represent Europe at the Chief of Naval Operations Shore Sailor of the Year Competition next month in Washington D.C.

The other regional Sailors of the Year vying for the title were IT1(SW) Chad A. Rogers of Naval Activities, United Kingdom; UT1(SCW) Joseph F. Ramos of Naval Station Rota, Spain; AC1(AW) Frances A. Medina of Naval Air Station Keflavik, Iceland; and OSI(SW) Ryan J. Sanderson of Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily.

“Yesterday I saw the statue of Saddam (Hussein) falling and I was happy. Now this,” Medina said after the ceremony. “I can’t say I’m any better than the other candidates here today,

they’re all great military professionals. We’re all winners here.”

Admiral Gregory Johnson, Naval Forces Europe commander, echoed Medina’s assessment. “They’re all brilliant Sailors who performed so well over the past year. It was a tough competition,” he said. Johnson presented each of the regional Sailors of the Year with Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals.



MM1(SW) Marc Medina shakes the hand of U.S. Naval Forces Europe Commander Adm. Gregory Johnson after winning the CNE Shore Sailor of the Year title recently.

positive.”

It’s been really a tough ride for Sigonella as a community with the closed and torn up roads, busses and cars having trouble getting around, and general headaches. “As a community, NAS Sigonella has been very tolerant,” added Morell. “We’ve changed the routes they had to follow to get to work, the places they’ve had to park, the amount of parking, where they’ve had to go for service, and still people have taken the longer view.

I know that when we open the commissary and exchange, people couldn’t wait to get in there,” he said. “I’m hoping that’s the same reaction we see for the galley and club, and for all of our buildings.”

SPORTS

Security beats Security in Security Battle



Security A Team Right Fielder swings at a pitch during intramural softball action on June 25.

JOSN Steve Weaver
Staff Writer

It's getting hot out there, but it's never too hot for a little friendly rivalry in men's regular season Captain's Cup Intramural Softball.

The Security A team and the Security B team clashed in a heated rivalry game on June 25, in front of tens of fans. The game was broadcast on the American Forces Network Sigonella radio.

Security A came up to bat first, and sent 18 players to the plate in the first inning. Short Stop Richard Hunt crushed a two-run homer in a top of the first that featured seven doubles and six singles. The A Team bats conjured up a whopping 12 runs in the first.

Security B responded with two in the first when Left Center Fielder Tom Blitch drove in Third Baseman Mike Jewell from third. Short Stop Ricky Carter then belted a single, scoring Pitcher Joe Allen. After a walk by First Baseman Michael Ensign, Right Center Fielder Bill Blevins ground into an inning-ending double play.

The A Team, even without Mr. T, kept up the pressure in the second. Extra Hitter Stephen Pakola belted a double, scoring Michael Rozsa and Anderson. Right Center Fielder Hughes then singled, bringing in Pakola. After a ground-rule double to center by Catcher Sean Ozlins scoring Second Baseman Bradley Long, Pitcher Brian Neal belted a three-run homer. The score was upped to 19 to 2 midway through the second.

The B team failed to respond for the rest of the game. The A Team put up 8 runs in the fourth and two more in the fifth to complete the 29 to 2 shellacking.

"It's a friendly rivalry," said Security B Team Coach Joe Allen. "We like each other." He said not hitting in the later innings was his team's downfall. "We consistently got base hits in the first couple innings, then we went [downhill] after that," he said.

"We've been talking back and forth to those guys at work," said Security A team Coach Sean Ozlins. "We've been looking forward to this for a long time."

"Like I said at the beginning of the year, it's all about hitting," said Ozlins. And that's what they did, punishing the ball throughout the game. "We had pretty good defense too."

A star during the season for Security A has been Neal. "He's the best player, and he's the guy that's going to All-Navy again this year," said Ozlins.

The Lane

Freedom Fest Fun Run

Come out and help your command earn points toward the Captain's Cup. T-shirts and awards given. Call 624-4483 or 624-5243

Red, White & Blue four-person best ball Golf tournament

Get your team together for this tournament taking place July 12 at Il Picciolo Golf Club. A small entry fee and greens fees are required. Call 624-2710.

European Exercise Tour

Starting July 1, you can climb run and walk your way around Europe without leaving the Fitness Center. Find out more by stopping by either center.

Q

Of the four North American major leagues(NHL,NFL, NBA, MLB) what team from which league has made it to the playoffs the most seasons consecutively?

&A

The St. Louis Blues of the NHL have been in the playoffs every year for the past 24 seasons.



Members of Sigonella's bike patrol unit, ride down a Sigonella street with the ever present Mt. Etna in the background.

Security on patrol — Bike patrol

Photos and story JOSN Steve Weaver

Staff Writer



Members of Sigonella's Bike Patrol, talk with Christian Fink outside the base commissary. The members of the bike patrol maintain a visible presence in the community.

The security department at Naval Air station Sigonella polices the community on a daily basis to ensure the protection of all.

One part of security's roll of policing includes driving about the base in those four-wheeled silver police vehicles, maintaining a visible presence. But another way to maintain this visible presence involves two wheels.

The bike patrol unit was resumed within the last two years to patrol the streets of NAS I and the Mineo and Maranai housing areas to maintain a more approachable and less imposing presence in the community.

The bike patrol deals with everything a normal patrol deals with, such as traffic accidents, domestic violence, and theft of government property. "We don't focus on some of that stuff as much," said PH3 Gunnar Curry Gorder, a member of the bike patrol. "Our focus is more on community issues instead of law enforcement issues. It's not to say we're not law enforcement...our primary job being security patrolmen. Our focus is more on the issues the community has rather than some of the other issues patrol deals with on a daily basis."

Interaction with the community has paid off for the patrol in regards to vandalism in Mineo housing. "I think because of our relationship with the community and the kids, we got the names of those who were doing all the damage," said MA3 Vasko Thomas, a member of the bike patrol. "As far as community relations goes, I think that ties in, being able to talk to kids. [The kids] approached us and said 'Hey, we know who did it' and gave us the names." He added that one of the reasons they're in Mineo is to assist with the destruction of government property that has happened.

"I know the reaction in the housing areas to us patrolling out there has been great," said Gorder. "Vandalism has almost been eliminated. It really doesn't happen with the frequency that it did before we started patrolling."

Being an approachable presence is a key to the job they perform. "We want Sigonella to know we're approachable, we're out there for them...to help maintain order," said Thomas. "We want them to have that sense of comfort that someone is keeping an eye on what's going on out there. We're definitely people who listen."

Those selected for bike patrol have to know their jobs. "Mostly all the people on bike patrol are some of the most qualified and experienced patrolmen to come through Sigonella," said Thomas. "I think that helps with the whole issue of dealing with kids and the public. When you've dealt with situations over and over again, you kind of know what works and what doesn't work. That's some the chain of command looks at when they select people for bike patrol."

The members of the patrol also benefit from their jobs. "Who can complain about being active and outside," said Gorder. "Dealing with the kids and the community, we get to deal with positive stuff a lot more."

"It's definitely a benefit for us as people to deal with the diversity of the NASSIG community," said Thomas. "When you deal with as diverse a group as we have here, you learn a lot about people, and a lot about communication."

These two-wheeled patrols will continue to pedal about the Sigonella community, keeping it safe and maintaining a visible and approachable presence.

Trivia Answers

- 1) Elizabeth Taylor
- 2) Ketchup (made of tomatoes, a vegetable) by Baskin Robbins
- 3) JAMES Buchanan
- 4) About 55%
- 5) Mr. Potato Head

VP-8 from page 1

collection of high-resolution cameras stored in a pod which gives us a true battlefield management mission. We have the ability to hang around an area for a long time. We then record and send information to commanders in real time.”

Equipping the P-3 Orion with the latest surveillance technology breathed new life to the aging four-engine, turbo prop driven aircraft. Because the aircraft is so fuel efficient, it can remain airborne on station up to 12 hours.

Squadron Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Robert Dishman praised the overall performance of VP-8 personnel, calling it a “community effort.” “VP-8 flew tactically and flew smart,” said Dishman “During the Iraqi war, we had 10 aircraft and 20 aircrews to work with. Our planes flew almost one year’s worth of flight hours in two months. During this time, VP-8 aircraft were fired upon and took hits but there were no fatalities and no P-3’s were lost.”

Although VP-8’s mission during the Iraqi war was overland surveillance, Cmdr. Dishman emphasized that the primary mission of the squadron remained anti-submarine warfare. “ASW is as much an art as it is a science, said Dishman. “We coordinate with other craft to hunt subs, sanitizing the water around carrier battle groups.”

This reporter had the opportunity to observe first hand the outstanding professionalism of VP-8, along with the impressive capabilities of the P-3 Orion when I accompanied a typical VP-8 crew on a sub hunting training mission.

Commanded by Lt. Cmdr. Brian Kleven, we left Sigonella for what would turn out to be a 10-hour mission. During the flight, I learned that the

typical P-3 has 11 total crewmembers, three of which are pilots (two fly while one rests).

Arriving on station off the coast of Sardinia, the crew of the P-3 became very active as we began to sub hunt in a 60 x 150 mile box. While Lt. Cmdr. Kleven piloted the aircraft, crewman were actively engaged dropping sonar buoys, listening for the tell-tale sounds of a submerged sub and locking on to the target.

Lt. Allen McNeal, one of the pilots onboard, guided me to the various work stations of the plane and explained the various tracking techniques and complex instrumentation. Crew execution was exceptional. They performed in a methodical workmanlike manner akin to a finely built Swiss watch.

Later, Lt. Cmdr. Kleven had the crew demonstrate the abilities of the surveillance equipment on board when the P-3 flew over and trained their surveillance cameras on an ocean-going car ferry. The resolution of the images was exceptional. “Our camera equipment combined with the all-weather ability of the P-3 allows us to compete with the capabilities of the U-2 and Predator aircraft,” said Kleven.

As we finally headed home, Lt McNeal explained how busy VP-8 had been the past few months. “On average P-3 flights last 10 hours,” said McNeal. “When you count briefings, total mission time can last 15 hours. The days can be long and grueling. On average, we fly five days a week.”

“Job satisfaction is why we do this,” McNeal continued. “We helped liberate the Iraqi people. Being a part of history makes this job worthwhile.”

Ready to go



Photo by PH8(SW) Beisi Currence

AT3 Morris Graham, of Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily is conducting preflight checks on one of Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Four's(HC-4) helicopters before flight operations.

Special additions from page 1

Command sponsorship, Family Member Care Plans, leave and separation were common issues discussed during the ending segment of the class.

The class is informative for expectant mothers, but spouses can learn useful information as well. Special Additions is a mandatory class that lasts only a half of a day each Mondays. Once you find out you are expecting, make sure your doctor schedules you an appointment.

Spin Class Mural Contest

Spin class mural runs until end July. Winner announced in August. All drawings should be dropped off at the NAS II gym. The drawings will be voted on and the winner revealed. The winner will recieved a \$100 gift certificate for an ITT trip. Drawings must include Spin cycles. The drawing pick will be commison for the Spin class room at the gym.

Gary Sinise to visit Sig

Classically trained actor and co-founder of the Steppenwolf Theatre Company (along with pal John Malkovich), Sinise had his big break as amputee Lt. Dan alongside Tom Hanks in the Oscar winning film, “Forrest Gump” (1993) which turned Sinise from a “nobody” into a “somebody” overnight. Sinise since has appeared in high profile Ron Howard films such as “Ransom” (1995) and “Apollo 13” (1996), and recently as Nicholas Cage’s naval officer buddy in “Snake Eyes”.

Now a “Big Hollywood Name”, Sinise draws a sell-out crowd when he returns to Steppenwolf for special theatrical showcases, such as his 1996 lead performance as Stanley Kowalski in Steppenwolf’s rendition of the Tennessee Williams classic, “A Street Car Named Desire” and 2000’s “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest.” Before he became a household celebrity name, Sinise secured a few directorial film credits which include a film adaptation of the Steinbeck novel “Of Mice and Men” (1991) in which Sinise also stars alongside buddy John Malkovich as well as the less known flick “Miles From Home” (1989) starring “Nothing Sacred” TV star Kevin Anderson, Helen Hunt, and Richard Gere.

For a time during the ‘90’s, beginning with 1993’s “Forrest Gump” — for which Sinise won a supporting Academy Award — Sinise could do no wrong. As the decade came to a close Sinise had begun to make a Nicolas Cage like career transformation (even starring with the man in DePalma’s 1998 failed experiment, “Snake Eyes”), opting for high profile roles in movies that had little, if any potential artistry.

Recently Sinise returned from Project Salute 2003 tour that visited service members in Kuwait, Iraq and Qatar.



CARAT from page 2

Units of the Royal Brunei Land Force and Air Force, along with three navy ships, are joining guided-missile cruiser USS Vincennes (CG 49), dock-landing ship USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49), rescue-and-salvage ship USS Safeguard (ARS 50) and 400-strong MAGTF, Landing Force CARAT, embarked in Harpers Ferry. Other U.S. assets involved include a P-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft and crew from Patrol Squadron 4, an SH-60B “Seahawk” helicopter from Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (Light) 51, along with personnel from the Joint Interagency Task Force, Sailors from the U.S. Coast

Guard, Pacific Area and agents of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), Singapore.

Joharie also pointed out the participation of law enforcement agencies, such as the Royal Brunei Marine Police and the Royal Brunei Anti-Narcotic Bureau, and noted the critical nature of exposure to current practices given to them by the U.S. Coast Guard, NCIS and others. “On our own, we would not be able to do this,” Joharie said.

“I would like to thank the United States Navy for giving our Royal Brunei armed forces the valuable opportunity to exercise our force at a joint level with a great degree of realism,” Joharie added.